



## Stillwater Area Public Schools (ISD 834)

# LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM 2024

Thank you for the significant investments you made in education during the 2023 legislative session. Linking the basic education formula to inflation and reducing the shortfalls in the special education and English learner programs are helping to stabilize our funding stream.

At the same time, historic inflation, staffing shortages, and well-intentioned programs and requirements adopted in the 2023 session have created a new set of budget challenges for our district.

We urge you to refrain from enacting any new unfunded mandates and financially support mandates from last year as part of the 2024 session.

### FUND NEW REQUIREMENTS AND INFLATIONARY COSTS

- Increase the basic formula allowance by an additional 2 percent for FY 25 to address rising labor costs due to worker shortages.
- Fully fund implementation of the READ Act.
  - We anticipate the new training and curriculum requirements of the READ Act will cost the district approximately \$3 million.
- Establish an ongoing funding stream for unemployment insurance, Earned Sick and Safe Time and Paid Family Medical Leave costs.
- Provide funding to support non-exclusionary discipline and restorative practices.

### EMPOWER LOCAL DECISION-MAKING

- Repeal the requirement that school boards negotiate e-learning days and student-to-staff ratios.
- Remove the per pupil limit in the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue program.
- Increase the safe schools levy from \$36 to \$108 per pupil and expand usage of it to include things like social workers.
- Clarify language related to the use of physical restraints to ensure the safety of students and staff.
- Discontinue the current practice of including scores of students whose parents choose to opt out of Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments.
- Enhance support for programs like Grow Your Own and apprenticeships.

### Who We Are:

The Stillwater Area Public School District serves about 8,200 students from 18 unique communities along the St. Croix River – from Marine to Afton and a portion of Woodbury. Our boundaries stretch 30 miles and cover approximately 150 square miles.

### 2023-2024 School Board

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